



MDC Supports Conservation in Your Community

Missouri Department of Conservation strives to support and encourage conservation in Missouri's communities.

The idea of "community conservation" can mean many different things to many different people, especially in a large metropolitan area like St. Louis. MDC has a wide range of existing partnerships with communities, non-profits, and other government entities to manage community tree resources, enhance wildlife habitat in urban and suburban landscapes, improve water quality, and control invasive species.

Are you interested in how MDC can support conservation in your community? Here are some of the ways we can help, deadlines to keep in mind, and where to go for more information:

Community Conservation Grant Program (CCGP): MDC offers the CCGP to support partner-led habitat improvement projects and connect communities to nature. The primary goal of the CCGP is to provide support for terrestrial and aquatic habitat improvement in urban areas. Other goals include coordinating efforts among similar organizations which share the common goal of improving urban habitats, and training partner organization staff in native habitat restoration and long-term management practices of sustaining natural landscapes.

TIMING: Applications are available June 1 and due back in early September.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Erin Shank (314-301-1506 x4207).

Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) Grants:

TRIM is a competitive, cost-share tree care program administered in cooperation with the Missouri Community Forest Council. The program provides reimbursement of \$1,000 to \$10,000 to assist government agencies, public schools, and nonprofit groups with the management, improvement, or conservation of trees on public lands. Projects eligible for TRIM funding include



Volunteers and MDC plant a sedge meadow at Francis Park in St. Louis City. MDC provided funds for the native plants through the Community Conservation Grant Program.

tree inventory, removal or pruning of hazardous trees, tree planting, and training of volunteers and city/county employees to best care for community forests.

TIMING: Applications are due June 5.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Mark Grueber (314-301-1506 x4210) or Danny Moncheski (636-300-1953 x4122).

Landowner Assistance Program

(LAP): Landowners including homeowners associations, city/ county governments, and non-government entities are eligible for reimbursement for certain land management practices. Most projects are reimbursed at 50% of the total cost up to a maximum, but restrictions

apply. Eligible practices include invasive species control and replanting, storm water improvement practices utilizing native plants, and other habitat improvements.

TIMING: Funds are available year-round on a first come, first served basis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Josh Ward (314-301-1506 x4213).

Technical Assistance: MDC staff are always available to provide technical assistance on habitat improvement projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center to find the best staff contact for your project, (314-301-1500).

By ERIN SHANK, urban wildlife biologist

Discover Nature – Fishing lessons begin April 16!

The Discover Nature –Fishing program helps Missourians gain the skills needed to become life-long anglers. Participants may complete four free lessons, each focusing on different aspects of fishing. The program is for 7-15 year olds, but family involvement is encouraged. Parents and guardians are welcome to participate alongside their children. View the schedule for Discover Nature –Fishing along with locations and online registration at, discoverfishingstl.com.

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

April 1 – November 30
Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

December 1 – March 31
Wednesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Women's Beginning Handgun

April 7 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Women ages 16 and up)

This program will include basic handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We start with a classroom session then move to a live-fire session on the range. Equipment and ammunition will be provided or you may bring your own handgun and ammunition. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin March 24.)

Beginning Archery for the Family

April 14 • Thursday, 5:30 – 9 p.m.

(Families fourth grade and up)

Learn the fundamentals of shooting the bow and arrow based on the Missouri National Archery in the School Program (MoNASP). This is a fun program for the family, fourth grade and up. All equipment will be provided. This is a family event. (Reservations begin March 31.)

Beginning Shotgun

April 21 • Thursday • 5:30 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

This program includes classroom, patterning, and some simple flying target shooting. Shotguns and ammo will be provided, or you may bring your own 12 or 20 gauge shotgun and use our ammo (shot size 7 or smaller.) Youth attending must be able to shoulder and shoot a shotgun safely without assistance. (Reservations begin April 7.)

Metallic Cartridge Reloading Basics

April 25 • Monday • 5:30 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Reloading is a hobby that can bring lots of personal and family satisfaction and enjoyment. Learn the fundamentals of metallic cartridge reloading. Includes both discussion and hands-on instruction, including safety, case preparation, and selection of primers, powder, bullets, equipment; and the use of manuals, ballistic tables, and component assembly. All equipment, is supplied. (Reservations start on April 11.)

Shotgun Shell Reloading Basics

April 28 • Thursday • 5:30 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

We will learn reloading safety; shotgun shell components; using the reloading manual and reloading data; equipment; and the shotgun shell reloading process. This beginning class is hands-on and you will actually load high quality shells. Equipment, components, tools, etc. are provided. (Reservations begin April 14.)

Beginning Youth .22 Target Rifle Shooting

April 30 • Saturday • 8 – 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 9 – 15)

Interested young people who have no experience shooting rifles are invited to participate this session on learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles in a controlled safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. (Reservations begin April 23.)

Connect to MDC Jay Henges Shooting Range with a text

Sign up for text alerts by texting "MDC Henges" to 468311 using your phone. Individuals can also sign up for email notifications by going to the Henges web page at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/299> and click on the "subscribe by email" link on the right-hand column. Subscribing to the text alerts can also be done directly on the MDC website.

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

AUGUST A. BUSCH MEMORIAL CONSERVATION AREA SHOOTING RANGE RENOVATIONS

The Missouri Department of Conservation's August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center in St. Charles is being renovated into an expanded state-of-the-art shooting range featuring more shooting stations and classroom facilities.

To expedite the renovations to the existing site, the shooting range is temporarily closed for public use and will remain closed for the duration of the renovation project. The new range will incorporate the most current national shooting range design standards, including an increased number of shooting stations, new classroom facility, and other building improvements for user convenience, safety, and reduced waiting times. For further information and a camera view of the construction site visit mdc.mo.gov key word "Busch Range".



Due to the range closure, all Busch Range programs will be held at the Busch Conservation Area classrooms in the St. Louis Regional Office unless otherwise noted.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Basic Archery

April 9 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – noon

(Ages 9 and up)

This program provides students with an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to safely participate in this fun and rewarding outdoor activity. All equipment and materials will be provided for this class. Our instructors will help all participants develop their archery skills as we cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. Class will meet in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin March 10.)

Shotgun Patterning

April 13 • Wednesday • 6 – 8 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

What is your maximum effective range to harvest a turkey? What shot size should you be using for turkey hunting? These questions and more will be answered in this informative program on shotgun patterning for turkey hunting. We will help you find the most effective choke/shotshell combination for your shotgun. Come discover the answers at this educational hands-on program! Bring your own firearm and chokes. Class will meet in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin March 15.)

Firearm Care and Cleaning

April 20 • Wednesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

After the hunt, or target shooting, do you know how to properly clean and maintain your firearm? Maintaining your firearm is critical to keep it safe, and in good shooting condition. Join our experts as they go over cleaning the different firearm actions, equipment needed, materials, and techniques to keep your firearm in top condition. This program will take place in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin March 21.)

Youth Air Rifle

April 23 • Saturday • 9 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 9 – 15)

Interested young people who have never had experience shooting are invited to participate on a Saturday morning session learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting air rifles in a controlled safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment is provided. Class will meet at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. Ages 9 – 15 and must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin March 23).

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Daily: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. DST
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Dig In!

April 5 • Tuesday • 10 a.m. – noon
(Ages 6 – 10)

Powder Valley is a wonderful place to come and watch the deer, squirrels, and birds. So, how about the creatures that live underground? This program will begin in the classroom with instruction and observations. Then we will take some equipment to the forest to “dig in” and see what we can find. (Reservations begin March 22).

Amphibian Night at Forest 44

April 15 • Friday • 7:30 – 10 p.m.

(All ages)

Join us as MDC Herpetologist Jeff Briggler talks about native amphibians and takes us on an exploratory hike. Learn how to identify different species and calls before venturing out to the ponds of Forest 44 in search of chorusing frogs. Meet at Jay Henges Shooting Range Education Center, located at Highway 44 and Beaumont/Antire Road. Please dress for the weather and wear clothes and shoes that can get wet and muddy. (Reservations begin April 1.)

Animal Architects

April 23 • Saturday • 9:30 a.m. – noon
(Ages 7 – 12)

Humans are not the only animals that can be architects. Discover how spiders make their webs, beavers build their dams, and eagles construct their nests. Take a closer look at the many animal architects that call Missouri home. (Reservations begin April 9.)

Dutch Oven Cooking

April 26 • Tuesday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Families)

Dutch ovens have been used for hundreds of years, both for survival and for pleasure. Come to Powder Valley and experience this age-old tradition. Together we will create a few different recipes and then sample them. You will also be able to observe several other outdoor-cooking methods, made of simple supplies that you may already have at home. Please bring a camp chair. (Reservations begin April 12.)



Trees in Trouble

April 8 • Friday • 7 p.m.

(Adults)

Invasive pests can strike anywhere and are devastating to the communities they affect. Join Mark Grueber, community forester, who will provide important information on the most damaging pests in trees - such as emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, and thousand cankers disease - and what MDC is doing to curb their destruction. Mark's presentation will be followed by a short film, *Trees in Trouble, Saving America's Urban Forests*. The film explores the rich history of urban forestry and the new research linking human health and trees and their integral role in mitigating climate change. (Reservations begin immediately.)

Antler Scoring and Whitetail Deer Seminar

April 16 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

(Adults)

Hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Gateway Branch of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) Spend the morning getting your deer antlers scored by certified Boone and Crockett scorers from 9 a.m. until noon. Antler Scoring is FREE and no registration is required. Following the scoring event, QDMA will host a whitetail deer seminar. Registration is required. For more details and to register, visit the QDMA website: www.STLWhitetails.com.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

Powder Valley Conservation Day Camp Application

June 14 • Tuesday – June 17 • Friday • 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

and June 18 • Saturday • 9 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 8 – 13)

Conservation Day Camp is four fun-filled days of conservation programs ranging from archery and fishing to dissecting owl pellets. On Saturday, parents/legal guardians will be asked to attend camp from 9–11:30 a.m. to learn about Missouri's fish, forests and wildlife from their child!

Conservation Day Camp is limited to 30 campers. Applications will be accepted through April 16, 2016. Participants will be chosen by a lottery drawing and will be notified via phone by April 22, 2016. Parents will receive a complete schedule of events and permission forms prior to the beginning of camp. Daily attendance is expected and parent/legal guardian participation on Saturday is strongly encouraged.

One family per application. Thank you.
Please complete this form and return to:

**Powder Valley Conservation
Nature Center
Conservation Day Camp
11715 Cragwold Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122**

Child's Name Age Shirt Size

Parent/Legal Guardian Name

Address

Cell/Daytime Phone

Home Phone

T-SHIRT SIZE CHART

SIZE	S	M	L	XL
YOUTH	6-8	10-12	14-16	18-20
WOMEN	4-6	8-10	12-14	16-18
MEN	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Earth Day in Forest Park

April 24 • Sunday • 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

(All Ages)

Come celebrate the Earth Day festival to honor and grow environmental stewardship and healthy sustainability. Earth Day in Forest Park joins nearly 50,000 people each year. Visit the Missouri Department of Conservation booth to help make a difference. A native tree seedling and children's craft will be offered to Earth Day attendees. Log on to <http://www.stlouisearthday.org/> for more information. (No reservations necessary.)

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Hopping Homes

April 7 • Thursday • 12:30 – 2 p.m.

(All ages)

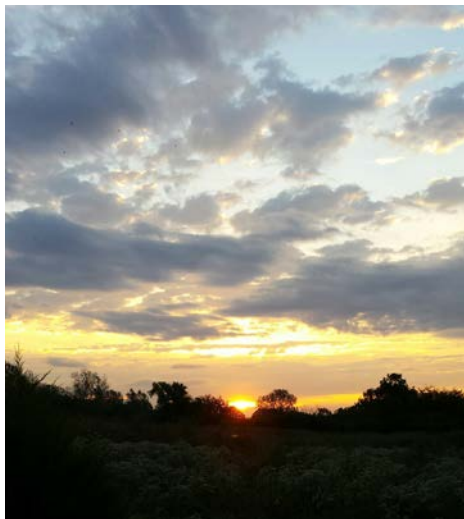
Nature is waking up and the nighttime soundtrack often features the choruses of the frogs and toads of Missouri. Let's decorate an abode for these vocal amphibians that you can place in your yard or garden for your own private concerts throughout the spring and summer. If times allows we will venture out on the area to find some of our jumping residents. (Reservations begin March 19.)

Sunset and Moonrise Photo/Viewing Opportunity and Walk

April 22 • Friday • 7 – 8:45 p.m.

(All Ages)

View the loveliest events of an evening, the sunset and moonrise. We will have a meet and greet at parking lot M (about 4 miles from the entrance). We will start our night with a walk to the Cropland Overlook to enjoy the sunset. The wide-open view from the overlook offers fantastic photo opportunities. Next, we will take a twilight walk through the woods to the Confluence of the two largest rivers in North America where we will be able to watch the moon rise over the water. In total we will walk about 1.5 miles. (Reservations begin April 6.)



Introduction to Geocaching at Fort Belle Fontaine Park

April 30 • Saturday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7 and up)

Geocaching is an adventurous activity, a modern day scavenger hunt that ties technology and nature together. This outdoor hobby is enjoyable at any age so bring your family to Fort Belle Fontaine Park to learn how you can be a modern day treasure hunter. Join us for an introduction on the basics of geocaching and then try your hand at hunting for hidden objects on the area. GPS Units will be provided. Please bring your own lawn chair. Stop at the guard house at the entrance to the property to sign in as a visitor and get directions to parking. Meet at the Grand Staircase. In partnership with Friends of Fort Belle Fontaine Park. (Reservations begin April 13.)

Hike at Fort Belle Fontaine Park

April 30 • Saturday • 1 – 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 and up)

Experience the natural wonders of Fort Belle Fontaine Park while hiking through a variety of habitats. Search for spring wildflowers in the prairie, enjoy the peaceful sounds of Cold Water Creek, and take in the spectacular view of the Missouri River from the Grand Staircase along a 3-mile trail looping the park. Members of the Friends of Fort Belle Fontaine Park will be present to share some of the amazing history of the location including how this was the first military installation west of the Mississippi River. Stop at the guard house at the entrance to the property to sign in as a visitor and get directions to parking. Meet at the Grand Staircase. In Partnership with Friends of Fort Belle Fontaine Park. (Reservations not required.)

To save paper, sign up to receive a direct link on-line to Conservation Connections by visiting www.mdc.mo.gov/govdelivery. Enter your email and subscribe to "News, Events and Newsletters - St. Louis Region."

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300



Wetlands for Kids

April 2 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(All ages)

Bring your family out for a fun-filled day to learn about all the critters that call the wetlands their home! See live birds of prey, get artsy with wetlands crafts, explore a beaver lodge, view a variety of live snakes and turtles, learn how to filet carp, and even try your hand at air rifles and archery! With over 15 stations and activities, the whole family will have fun! (No reservations necessary.)

Amphibian Night Hike

April 9 • Saturday • 7 – 9:30 p.m.

(Adults only)

Witness a “marsh concert” presented by the toads and frogs of Missouri during an evening out on the levies at the Marias Temps Clair Conservation Area. On this 2-mile hike we will learn how to identify frogs and toads by their unique calls. Please dress for the weather and bring a small flashlight. (Reservations begin March 25.)

Amphibian Night Hike

April 16 • Saturday • 7 – 9:30 p.m.

(All ages)

Witness a “marsh concert” presented by the toads and frogs of Missouri during an evening out on the levies at the Marias Temps Clair Conservation Area. On this 2-mile hike we will learn how to identify frogs and toads by their unique calls. Please dress for the weather and bring a small flashlight. (Reservations begin April 1.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.



Bird ID and Flyways Discovery Table

April 30 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All ages)

Come learn how to identify birds and where their migration highways are in the sky. Then go view birds in their natural habitats! This Discovery Table meets the Cub Scout requirements for Wolves: Birds Elective 13d; Webelos: Naturalist #3, #5; Juniors: wildlife #3, #8. Also appropriate for Brownies. (No reservations required, come anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.)

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Spring on the Trail Among the Trees

April 9 • Saturday • 1 – 3 p.m.
(All ages)

Let's spend a beautiful spring afternoon hiking the Trail Among the Trees in Rockwoods Reservation. Along the way we should be able to see and identify many native wildflowers that are blooming. You will learn some of the amazing history of Rockwoods as we pass scars of man's presence over 100 years ago. (Reservations begin March 25.)

All About Hummingbirds

April 14 • Thursday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.
(Families)

Spring is here, and so are hummingbirds! Learn about these beautiful and amazing birds, including how to attract them to your yard. (Reservations begin March 31.)



and over gradual hills. Please dress for the weather and meet in the Glassberg parking lot. (Reservations begin April 1.)

Wildflower Hike at Glassberg Conservation Area

April 16 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Ages 10 and up)

Spring has arrived! Join us as we look for wildflowers while hiking along the newly expanded 3.5 mile trail that loops through woods, meadows, and along streams. Frequent stops will be made along the long incline to the bluff overlooking the Meramec River valley,

Goodness Snakes Alive

April 22 • Friday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.
(Ages 4 – 6)

Are snakes really slimy? How do they move, smell, hear, and eat? Learn the answers to those questions and lots of other neat stuff about snakes. You will be able to observe live snakes found in Missouri and even touch some of them if you want to. Come prepared to take a short hike to see if we can observe any snakes in their natural habitat. (Reservations begin April 8.)



Awesome Snakes and Lizards

April 23 • Saturday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.
(Ages 7 – 12)

Snakes and lizards are really amazing reptiles. Come and discover many incredible things about the snakes and lizards that live in Missouri. You will be able to observe live snakes and even touch some. Come prepared to take a short hike to see if we can observe any snakes or lizards in their natural habitat. (Reservations begin April 8.)